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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Item 18 of the preliminary list**
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 4 March 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the position of my country, as an observer State to the process of settling the conflict in Western Sahara, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 809 (1993) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 18 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rabah HADID
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

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ANNEX

Position of Algeria, as an observer State to the settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 809 (1993)

Algeria has taken note of the adoption on 2 March 1993 of Security Council resolution 809 (1993) on the question of Western Sahara, inviting the Secretary-General and his Special Representative to intensify their efforts with the parties in order to resolve the questions blocking the implementation of the Settlement Plan, in particular those relating to the interpretation and application of the criteria for voter eligibility.

In reaffirming its endorsement of the Settlement Plan established jointly by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, Algeria strongly hopes that the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Polisario will demonstrate the necessary will and cooperate in good faith in resolving those questions inasmuch as no viable solution is possible in the absence of agreement between the parties.

It wishes to recall that in accepting the 1988 settlement proposals as well as the Settlement Plan, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Polisario had expressly given their agreement that the 1974 Spanish census should constitute the point of reference and the basis for identifying the Saharans eligible to participate in the referendum for self-determination. In that spirit, Algeria wishes to reiterate the position it stated on 26 December 1991 (S/23323) to the effect that the introduction of new elements not agreed to by both parties would be incompatible with the spirit and letter of the Settlement Plan and could jeopardize the process for settling the dispute concerning Western Sahara as originally conceived by the United Nations and accepted by both parties.

It expresses the hope that the Security Council, which has placed its seal of authority on the Settlement Plan by its resolutions 658 (1990) and 690 (1991), will continue to ensure that its integrity is preserved and that the Settlement Plan is not misconstrued either in content or purpose, namely the free exercise by the people of Western Sahara of its right to self-determination.

In that connection, Algeria cannot but note with regret the omission for the first time of any reference to the role of the Organization of African Unity in the organization and supervision of the referendum for self-determination in Western Sahara which was conceived precisely in the framework of their joint mission of good offices.

As an observer country to the process of settling the question of Western Sahara, Algeria has been involved at all stages in the development and implementation of the Settlement Plan and has made it a duty to lend its constant support to the process of the joint good offices of the Acting

Chairman of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It will continue to make its contribution towards the implementation of the full Settlement Plan as accepted by the two parties and unanimously approved by the Security Council.

Algeria consequently believes that all possible steps should be taken to create the conditions needed to hold a referendum on genuine self-determination which satisfies the United Nations imperative of credibility and which is such as to guarantee stability in the whole region.